

Newick Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Newick Parish Council held at 7pm on Monday 9th March 2026 at the Newick Community Centre, The Green, Newick

Present: Councillors, C. Armitage, B. Hodge, M. Hughes, P. Impey, C. Keenan, D. Marchant, B. Whitlock, C Wickens.

In Attendance: Emma Reece (Clerk)
A recording was made of the meeting for the purposes of minute taking
Two members of the public

The meeting started at 7.00pm

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Councillor Kerr.
2. **Disclosure by Members of personal interest in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct** – There were none.
3. **Exclusion of the Press and Public** – There were none.
4. **To consider co-option of up to two applicants to fill Parish Councillor Vacancy** – There was one applicant present to observe the meeting.
5. **Questions or Statements by Members of the Public** – There were none.
6. **Report from Lewes District Councillor Charlotte Keenan** – Cllr. Keenan circulated a report prior to the meeting. She also stated that she was also looking into issues with flies again and would like locations emailed to her so she could map areas.
7. **Report from County Councillor (CC.) Matthew Milligan** – CC. Milligan was not present.
8. **Report from Member of Parliament Mims Davies** – the Member of Parliament was not present.
9. **Approval of draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 9th February 2026** – These were considered and approved.
10. **Planning:**
10.1 Applications:

LW/26/0037	<p>24 Western Road Erection of single-storey rear extension, replacement of existing conservatory including new windows/doors and flat roof, alterations to fenestration to the main house</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to make no comment.</p>
LW/26/0082	<p>25 Western Road Demolition of detached garage and erection of a single-storey outbuilding to form an Artist Studio</p> <p>Cllr. Hodge proposed to make no objection but to make comment that if the gallery is to be used for commercial purposes or the studio used for teaching, the parking arrangements need to be adequate. All in favour apart from Cllr. Armitage who abstained.</p>

10.2 Approvals/Refusals:

It was noted that the following had been approved by Lewes District Council:

LW/26/0012 and LW/26/0013 | Relocation of a proposed free standing glasshouse sited on a dwarf brick wall (relating to approvals LW/25/0505 and 506) | Hurstbourne Cottage Cornwell's Bank Newick East Sussex BN8 4RJ

LW/25/0061 and LW/26/0642 | Minor amendments to approval LW/23/0279 - Re-organisation of ground floor accommodation to provide toilet facilities and new front entrance porch | Former Stables Of The Old Rectory Church Road Newick BN8 4JX

10.3 Tree Works Applications –

It was noted that the following application has been refused by Lewes District Council:

T1 - Sycamore - Removal of tree to ground level - To prevent further structural damage
6 Church Road Newick East Sussex BN8 4JU
Ref. No: TW/26/0006/TCA

10.4 To discuss Wealden District Council Local Plan consultation – Cllr. Wickens stated that she did not have the time to respond but asked if any Councillors felt strongly and wanted to take this on then she would back them. No Councillors put themselves forward and it was agreed not to respond to this consultation. All were in favour of this motion.

10.5 Planning update training – Cllr. Wickens stated that she attended some training with Cllr. Armitage on the future of planning by Steve Tilbury. She stated that there is opportunity for new Councillors to be trained and embrace the upcoming changes. She stated this is the only way Newick would continue to have a local voice when the Local Planning Authority becomes unitary.

10.6 To consider response to NPPF consultation – Cllr. Armitage stated that a suggested draft response had been written by the Wivelstow campaign, and it was unanimously agreed to use that draft as a response to the consultation.

11. Clerk's Report – To note report from Clerk. A report had been circulated and included the following:

- Diary reminders
- Double yellow line progress

12. Report by Clerk on any action taken under Delegated Powers in consultation with Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman – None.

13. Financial Matters:

13.1 To authorise Schedule of Payments for March 2026 - It was agreed that Cllrs. Hodge and Impey would authorise the following payments:

List of Payments made between 01/03/2026 and 31/03/2026

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Amount Paid</u>	<u>Authorized Ref</u>	<u>Transaction Detail</u>
31/03/2026	Satswana Ltd	890254876	180.00		Data Protection Officer
31/03/2026	Unity Trust	BANK CHG	9.10		Usage charge
31/03/2026	East Sussex ALC Ltd	410593127	96.00		Planning Training
31/03/2026	Lewes District Council	340062276	18.00		Play inspections
31/03/2026	Two Build Sussex Ltd	710630981	767.00		Two Build Sussex Ltd
31/03/2026	Mrs E Reece	88206100	2,063.93		Clerk Salary
31/03/2026	East Sussex Pension Fund	79805207	737.18		Pension
31/03/2026	HM Revenue & Customs	279032837	880.42		NI & PAYE
31/03/2026	Paul Antrobus	638790874	476.00		Handyman
31/03/2026	George Pottinger	BACS	240.00		Final visit Pavilion
Total Payments			5,467.63		

13.2 To receive statement of performance against budget as at end of February 2026 –
This was received and noted.

13.3 To consider grant applications received (S. 137 LGA 1972) – the were no applications at this stage but a potential grant to pay for tree works at was to be discussed later under item 18.

13.4 To consider any quotations received including Mulberry & Co for 2026/27 audit services – It was agreed to reappoint Mulberry & Co as internal auditors for three years from the 2026/27 financial year.

- 14. Newick Sports Pavilion –** Cllr. Hodge outlined works costing around £2000 to meet the fire regulation sign off. This included a metal barrier of which one wire has broken but the manufacturer has given one replacement free of charge. If this reoccurs regularly then it was agreed the Parish Council won't replace wires as the outer railing fulfils the purpose of marking the area. Cllr. Hodge stated the outside emergency lights have been fitted. As far as building regulations are concerned Total Building Control have done the final sign off visit but the sheds need some remedial work. It was agreed with Total Building Control this will not delay the certification of the main pavilion. Cllr. Hodge stated the bar is in place, and furniture has been ordered but there is a delay in delivery. Cllr. Hodge stated that the food hygiene certificate is in hand, there are no modifications to the internal doors but the external doors to the social space may need a more practical opening system. The Clerk stated that she will be testing the shower water pressure this week to check the changing rooms are fully operational following concerns from the Pavilion Trust.
- 15. Newick Common –** Cllr. Armitage stated that in late February he spoke to Tony Turk who witnessed three kids digging deep holes in ground to make bike ramps. They were made aware the common is designated as an area of special scientific interest and they apologised but the holes remain. LDC are considering further signage.
- 16. To confirm arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting on 16th March 2026 –** this was noted.
- 17. To consider request from Newick Horticultural Society to use The Green for the Annual Show on Saturday September 5th 2026 and to erect banners beforehand –** this was agreed.
- 18. Newick Allotment Society –** Cllr. Hughes stated that she had not yet attended a meeting with NAS to discuss this matter further. The Clerk outlined the history and stated that there was enough money in the budget for this financial year to pay for the immediate works at a cost of £510 plus VAT. This would be conditional on the Clerk receiving an invoice from Birchwood for payment prior to the 25th March. Beyond that date the offer is withdrawn. It was agreed that NAS would need to speak to the Fullers to make them aware. It was agreed that Cllr. Hughes would still meet on site to discuss longer term plans. It was agreed that the future of tree surveys and

works still needed to be agreed between NAS and NPC and that the offer of payment this time would not set a precedent until this matter was fully discussed and agreed between both parties.

- 19. **To agree content for April Parish Council newsletter (deadline 15th March)** - A draft content list was circulated, and this was agreed.
- 20. **Report from Cllr. B Whitlock on Village Hall Management Committee** – Cllr. Whitlock stated that the AGM is 23rd March, that the Panto company has gone into administration, but she is hopeful that she can do something with the PTA instead.
- 21. **Items for next agenda** – NPPF

Cllr. Armitage stated that John Schlater sadly passed away recently and the Parish Councillors noted their respects.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....

Mrs E Reece, Clerk to the Council
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